



Telemedicine in Rural Nigeria: User Engagement and Access Implications Analysis

Chima Okechukwu¹, Omololu Adeboyejo²

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Port Harcourt

² University of Maiduguri

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Correspondence: cokechukwu@hotmail.com

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Author notes

Chima Okechukwu is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Port Harcourt and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.

Omololu Adeboyejo is affiliated with University of Maiduguri and focuses on Psychology research in Africa.

Abstract

Telemedicine services are emerging as a critical tool for improving healthcare access in rural areas of Nigeria, particularly addressing the shortage of medical personnel and infrastructure. Qualitative interviews were conducted with a sample of 50 participants from selected rural areas, using semi-structured questionnaires to gather data on user experience and perceptions of telemedicine services. A significant proportion (64%) of respondents indicated higher satisfaction with telemedicine compared to traditional in-person healthcare, highlighting the need for further service expansion. However, technological barriers and socio-economic disparities remain key challenges. User engagement is generally positive, yet there are notable gaps that require targeted policy interventions to enhance accessibility and ensure equitable healthcare delivery in rural Nigeria. Investment should be prioritised in improving internet connectivity and training for telemedicine providers, while addressing socio-economic barriers through subsidies or community health programmes.

Keywords: *Nigerian, Telehealth, Ruralism, UserEngagement, HealthcareAccess, QuantitativeResearch, GeographicInformationSystems*

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